

Minutes of City of Reading Charter Board

November 17, 2009

Administrative

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Slifko at 7:00 P.M.. In attendance were Board members Elizabeth Stanley, Barry Lloyd, Gerald Richter, and John Slifko.

The Board initially discussed what its policy should be regarding the need for the presence of counsel (either in person or telephonically) during its deliberations of advisory opinions. The purpose of counsel's presence would be to invoke the attorney/client privilege to protect Board members from discovery in any potential lawsuits stemming from the advisory opinions.

It was decided that for the advisory opinion to be discussed this evening (specifically, the opinion requested by Dave Cituk re Section 702(A)(4) of the Charter) that counsel's presence would not be necessary.

Mark Fisher of High, Swartz, Roberts, and Seidel was then reached by phone and told that his presence would not be needed for the discussion of this advisory opinion.

It was then decided by the Board that a broader, more general policy regarding counsel's presence during advisory opinion deliberations was needed, and that the Board would put such policy discussion on its agenda for the December 1 meeting.

Educational

It was announced that the next BCTV program would be January 14 at 7:00 P.M..

It was further announced that the following dates for the orientation of elected officials were agreeable to Linda Kelleher: 1/27; 2/10; 2/24; 3/10.

Advisory

The Board discussed the draft by Eric Smith of Advisory Opinion #19 regarding the mandate or non-mandate of certain positions under Section 702(A). The draft was approved unanimously without change.

Enforcement (executive session)

The board was briefly updated on the procedural status of the Khokar appeal before Commonwealth Court.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M..

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Ito, Vice Chair
City of Reading Charter Board